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BRAKSPEAR.

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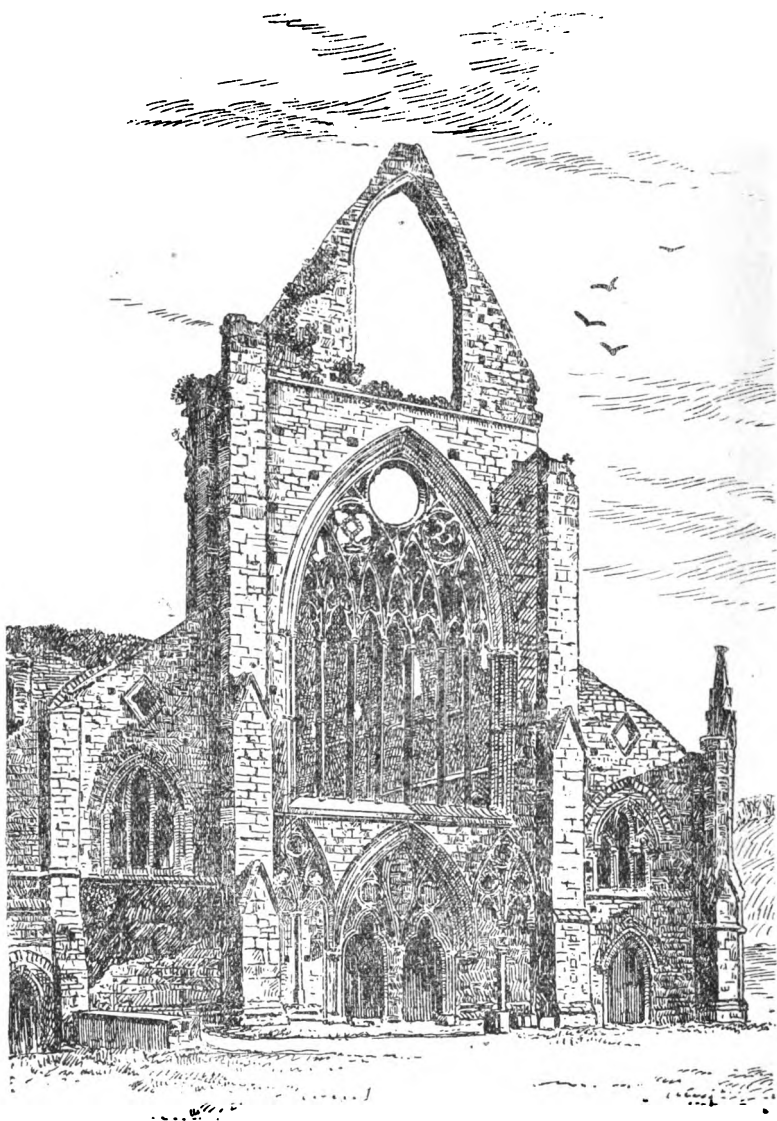
Monmouthshire.



HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A.
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MORTON EVANS.

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TINTERN ABBEY. WEST FRONT.

Gintern Abbey,

Monmouthshire.

519 hms
1929 ed.

BY

HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A.

and

MORTON EVANS.



2nd Edition (revised).

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE;

BY DARLING & SON, LTD., 34-40, BACON STREET, E.

1910.

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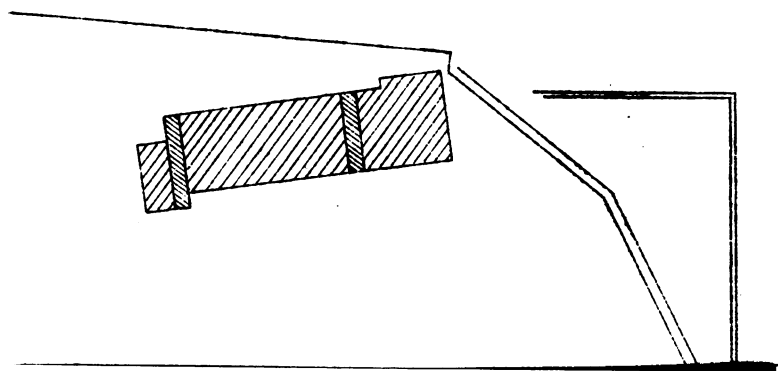
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PART I.

By HAROLD BRAKSPEAR, F.S.A.

INTRODUCTION.

The abbey of Tintern was founded upon the 9th day of May, 1131, by Walter FitzRichard, lord of Striguil, for monks of the Cistercian order.

This order of reformed Benedictines was first introduced into this country at Waverley, in Surrey, three years previously. It originated in 1098, and the abbey of Cîteaux, in Burgundy, was founded for the strict observance of the rules of St. Benedict, by the late abbot and some twelve monks of the abbey of Molesme. The Order was the most severe of any in Christendom, and was governed by the strictest rules and observances for every occasion. Those rules respecting the abbey buildings may be repeated at length :—

The Cistercian order.

“None of our houses is to be built in cities, in castles, or villages ; but in places remote from the conversation of men, and let all churches of our order be dedicated and founded in honour of the Blessed Mary.

“Let there be no towers of stone for bells, nor of wood to an immoderate height, which are unsuited to the simplicity of the Order.

“Let glass windows be white only

“Superfluities and notable curiosities in carvings, paintings, buildings, pavements, and other like

things, which may corrupt the early purity of the Order and are not consistent with our poverty, we forbid to be made, in abbeys, granges, and cellarer's buildings; nor any paintings except the image of our Saviour. (Tables, too, that appertain to the altars may only be painted in one colour.) All these things let father-abbots in their visitations carefully enquire about and cause to be observed.

"It is not lawful for anyone to found an abbey of our Order, or to transfer one already founded, except by leave of the Chapter-General.

"Let twelve monks at least, with the abbot as thirteenth, be sent out to new houses. Also, let them not be settled there till the place be so furnished with houses, books, and other necessities that they can live and observe the rule there."

Once a year the abbot of a head house had to visit each of the daughter houses founded from it, either personally or by co-abbots. Also annually all the abbots of the Order had to attend the general chapter at Cîteaux, unless prevented by sickness, or in case of great distance when they had their stated times of attendance. The supervision of the whole community, which covered most of western Europe from Norway to Italy, and Bohemia to Spain, being so strictly considered and being in so direct and regular communion by visitation and attendance at general chapter, it is little wonder that a universal similarity and planning prevailed in the abbey buildings throughout the Order.

One other peculiarity of the Order was the position occupied by the *conversi* or lay-brothers

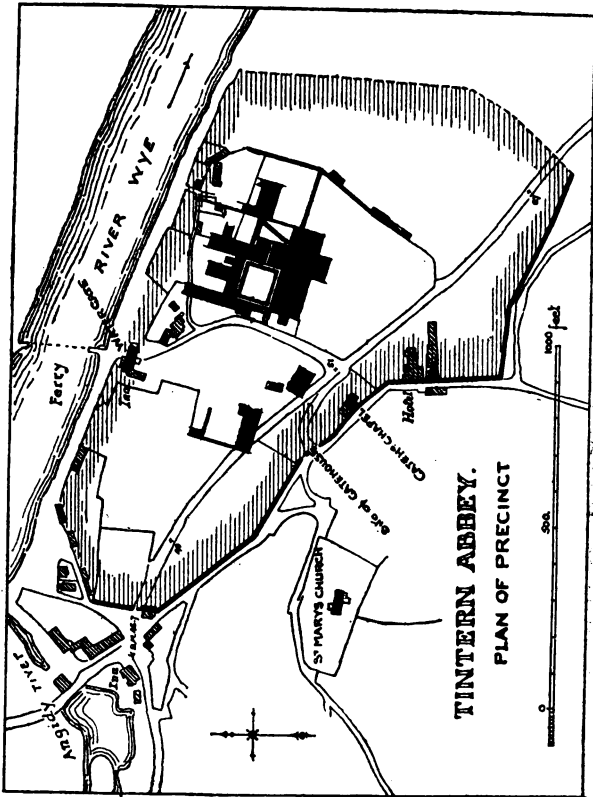
These among other orders were merely servants drawn from the lower classes, but with the Cistercians they were of the same social standing as the monks, the difference being that a lay-brother was illiterate and a monk could read and write or was supposed to. They had charge of all the external affairs of the house under the mastership of the cellarer and did all the manual labour. They were housed in connection with the cloister, and had a separate frater and dorter, with night stairs to the church, and an infirmary. They held a chapter to themselves and had separate stalls in the nave of the church. The Cistercian lay-brothers seem to have died out about the middle of the fourteenth century, owing doubtless to the increase of education among the better classes, and were superseded by mere hired servants. In some abbeys their buildings were changed to other purposes and new ones erected for the new class, but in many cases the new servants occupied the quarters of their predecessors.

The Order made such rapid strides during its early years, that in 1151, as five hundred houses had been founded, the general chapter ruled that no others should be founded; nevertheless by the middle of the thirteenth century the number had increased to no fewer than one thousand eight hundred. In England and Wales there were seventy-six houses, and to these twenty-three in other countries owed their origin, namely, eleven in Scotland, ten in Ireland, and two in Norway. There were nuns of the Order though the origin of their houses was not dependent upon older abbeys. There were twenty-six of these establishments in this country.

**Building
sequence.**

The abbey of Tintern was placed on the west bank of the river Wye, four miles north of Chepstow, in Monmouthshire, and according to the *Consuetudines* must have consisted of at least a church, a frater, a dormitory, a guest-house and a porter's lodge. These required buildings, owing to the abundance of stone in the neighbourhood, were probably built of that material from the first. The original buildings have left various remains among the later, which show that they were set out upon a remarkably small scale and that want of space alone was sufficient cause for their subsequent removal. Though minor additions were made in the twelfth century no general scheme of enlargement was begun till about 1220. This consisted of building a new frater, placed north and south, with a warming-house on the east and a kitchen on the west having the new wall next the cloister some 9 feet further north than the old. The chapter-house and eastern range were remodelled and the western range considerably altered. As at the sister house of Waverley so soon as the monastic buildings were made adequate for the convent, the church was the next thing undertaken.

The new church at Tintern was built to the south and east of the old church, so that the quire services should not be interrupted till the new quire was ready. As Roger Bigod, 5th Earl of Norfolk, to whom the work is attributed, only succeeded in 1270, the building must have proceeded with moderate rapidity, for the convent was able to celebrate mass therein in 1287. The old church would then be pulled down and the western part of the new building proceeded with, but in a leisurely manner as, from the



evidence of the building itself, it could not have been finished much before the end of the first quarter of the fourteenth century.

During the time the nave of the church was building, the great infirmary of the monks was being built in place, presumably, of a wooden structure.

At the end of the fifteenth century a new cloister was begun, but was apparently never completed beyond the south walk and three bays of the east walk.

THE PRECINCT.

The site of every monastery was enclosed by a boundary wall or dyke, and within the precinct thus formed were placed all the buildings of the abbey, even stables and all houses for habitation must be within the gate of Cistercian houses.

The precinct at Tintern retains the whole of its boundary wall on the south and west sides, but on the east it has disappeared, and the river Wye bounds the north, on which side may or may not have been a boundary wall.

The area inclosed is some 27 acres and was entered about the middle of the south-west side at the convergence of three old roads.

All Cistercian houses had an outer and an inner gate-house, having a court between in which was generally the gate-house chapel and sometimes the abbey mill. At Tintern all signs of both gate-houses have gone, but the chapel remains incorporated in the modern house called "St. Ann's." It is a simple rectangle on plan, of thirteenth century date, retaining the original east window,

of three lancet lights having attached shafts with carved capitals to the jambs and mullions on the inside. Against the north wall, externally, is a corbel with the springing of the vault of a destroyed building.

The great drain of the abbey seems to have been taken from the Angidy brook by an open channel along the south-west boundary to near the gate-house, and from thence by culverts, beneath some buildings in the outer court, to the claustral buildings: after passing under which and the infirmary, it discharged into the river at the north-east angle of the precinct. Except where the drain shows under the buildings on the north of the cloister its track has not yet been fully traced, so that there may have been an additional supply of water from the valley to the south. The water supply of the abbey is supposed to have been drawn from a spring called "Coldwell" to the south of the precinct, and it would be taken by lead pipes to the infirmary and from there distributed to the other buildings.

The western part of the precinct is now a level grass field with banked sides, and gives the appearance of having been a large pond, in which case it formed the mill-pond and would probably be supplied at high tide through sluices the same as at Beaulieu, but the site of the mill is not evident.

There is still a ferry across the river opposite the abbey and the slipway is gained through a late thirteenth century archway in connection with "the Anchor Inn," part of which building is ancient.

The claustral buildings are placed about half-way between the supposed mill-pond and the

eastern wall of the precinct, with the infirmary to the east, and the walls round its garden are still extant. Westward of the church are the remains of two guest-houses and other buildings which have only been partially excavated.

THE CHURCH.

The first church at Tintern was suggested by the late Mr. Blashill to have stood in a different position from the later, but he never gave much attention to its plan. This the present writer was able to partially demonstrate, after having excavated that at Waverley, which closely resembled it in shape and position, but the few places where it has been possible to excavate the foundations have not established all the features of its plan. It consisted, however, without doubt of a small presbytery, transepts with one chapel to the east of each, and a long aisleless nave. Of this the north-east angle of the presbytery and both walls of the nave have been found by excavation, while the west wall of the transept and part of the north end remain to a considerable height, incorporated in the later work.

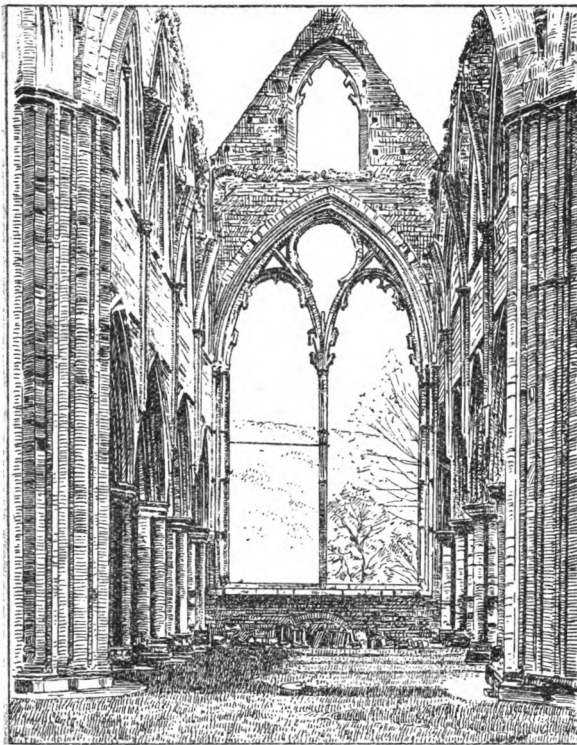
Around this simple structure, on the east and south, Roger Bigod's magnificent building was reared, so planned, as Broadwater's church at Waverley, that the monks were not disturbed in their old quire until the new one was ready for their occupation. This church, with the exception of the north wall of its nave and the vaulted ceilings, remains entire. It consists of a presbytery with aisles, north and south transepts with two eastern chapels to each and a nave with aisles. It

measures internally 228 feet in length, 152 feet across the transepts, and 75 feet wide in the presbytery and nave.

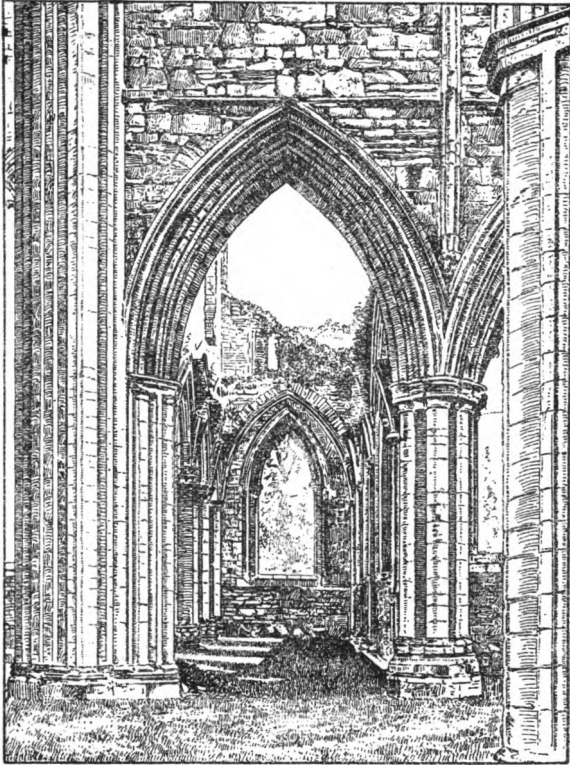
THE PRESBYTERY is of four bays. A great window, originally of eight lights, occupies the whole east end and was filled with painted glass bearing the arms of the founder. The middle mullion and a great wheel in the head, with parts of two others still remain. The gable over has a large window but the tracery has gone. Under the east window is a segmental arch of rough masonry which was a barrow-hole for the use of the builders. The side walls of the presbytery are divided by string-courses into three stages; the lowest contains the main arcade arches carried on clustered piers, which had originally detached, banded columns in the angles. The stage above is blank to take the aisle roofs. The clerestory has in each bay a two light window, with a sex-foil in the head, and detached jamb-shafts internally. The vaulting was carried by triple shafts supported on corbels in the spandrils of the arcade, and the springers are at the level of the string under the clerestory. The vault had merely cross and diagonal ribs with bosses at the intersection of the latter, and was much later in date than the main walls. Between the arcade piers, parting off the aisles, were screen walls 12 inches thick, which were provided for from the first.

The high altar was apparently in line with the first pair of piers, and the eastern bay was occupied by two chapels and the procession way.

The aisles had altars in the eastern bays with three-light windows above. In each side bay is a two-light window similar to the clerestory. In



GREAT EAST WINDOW.



SOUTH AISLE OF PRESBYTERY LOOKING EAST.

the first bay on the south are the remains of a piscina, and in the third bay on the north is a doorway to the passage to the infirmary, through which the infirm monks came to the church to hear certain offices.

THE SOUTH TRANSEPT is of three bays, and the end wall is pierced by a very tall window, originally of six lights, which has lost its tracery. Beneath is a doorway of four orders contained in a pediment intruding on the lower part of the window. In the gable above is a small window, and in the south-west angle is a large circular staircase leading to a wall-gallery and the roof. The east wall is of precisely similar design to the side walls of the presbytery; but the west wall, having no aisle, has a range of windows lineable with the aisle windows, and another with the clerestory, but of the latter the rear-arches are carried down to the string-course in line with that over the main arches.

The eastern chapels were divided from each other by screen walls, and had three-light east windows.

THE NORTH TRANSEPT is of almost the same design as the south, but owing to the first church occupying its site, is of various dates. The east arches were the first part built, together with the west wall as far as the first transept wall to the same height; the north wall was then built, and finished with the upper works of the side walls. The north end has a six-light window with its tracery remaining, and internally the lower part is treated as wall-panelling owing to the abutment of the dorter on the outside. Under this window is a wide doorway of three orders to the

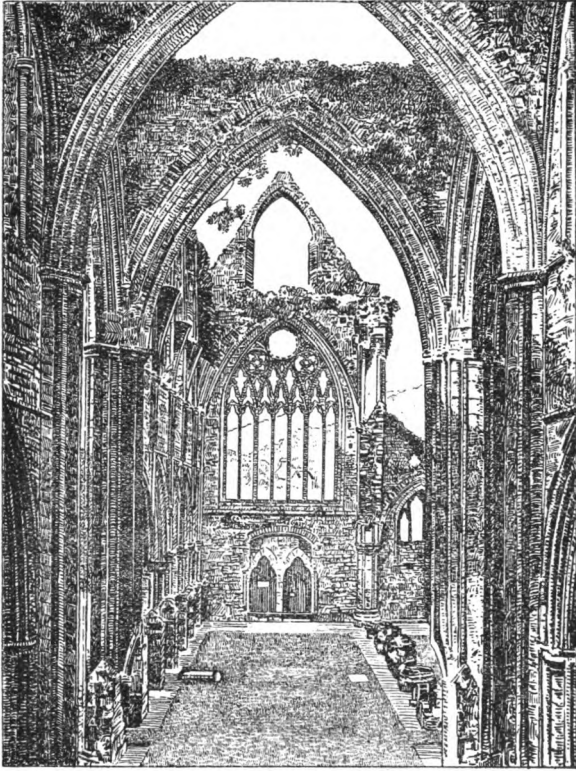
dorter, approached by a flight of steps for the use of the monks attending the night offices. There is another doorway further east which led to the vestry. There is a stair-turret in the north-west angle, starting at the dorter level to a wall-gallery and to the roof. The east wall, above the main arches, is treated differently from the rest of the church, in so much that the inner jambs of the clerestory windows are carried down to the string over the arches, at which level the wall-gallery occurs. Externally this wall has the abutments for flying buttress.

The eastern chapels were not finished till the fourteenth century, but have dividing walls like those on the south.

THE CROSSING retains its four arches, and the responds of the western are carried on corbels owing to the quire stalls having been beneath. Above the crossing must have been a belfry as it is called by William Worcester *area campanalis in medio chori*.

THE NAVE is of six bays of similar design to the presbytery except that the arcade pillars have no detached columns. The first two bays are of continuous work with the presbytery, but a break there occurs and is marked by the discontinuance of detached columns in the clerestory windows westward.

The west end is pierced by a great window of eight lights retaining its tracery. Beneath is a wide doorway, having two trefoiled openings under a containing arch of three members, the spandrils being filled with tracery having a ground work of diaper. On either side of the door is a pointed wall panel of two divisions with traceried



NAVE LOOKING WEST.

heads. The gable above has a wide window opening which has lost its tracery.

The south aisle has the first three and a half bays of the earlier work, and the remainder with the west end is of the second period. The earlier windows have each two lights with sexfoils in the heads, and the western pair, also of two lights, have the sills at a much higher level and the heads filled with quatrefoils. The west end has a three-light window and a doorway of three orders beneath. At the south-west angle one of the pinnacles surmounting the buttresses remains and is octagonal with traceried sides and a spirelet top.

The north aisle, except the eastern and west end, is of the second period and has two-light windows, with quatrefoils in the heads, high up so as to escape the cloister roof without. The eastern bay is of fourteenth century date and contains the processional doorway from the cloister, which is of three continuous numbers with feathered head and the middle member enriched with foliage. It had originally a pediment above to the cloister with a large trefoil in the spandril. The west end has a three-light window and a skew passage in the north-west angle by which the lay-brothers gained their quire.

The nave was divided from its aisles by solid screen walls in the usual Cistercian manner, but the second, and westernmost bay on the north were left open. At the first pair of pillars was the quire screen separating the eastern part of the church from the nave. From this screen eastward under the crossing was the monks' quire with its upper entrances, next the eastern piers of the crossing. On the west side of the screen

were a couple of altars. The fourth and fifth bays of the nave were occupied by the lay-brothers' quire with the stalls backing up to the solid screen walls.

Outside the west door was a fifteenth century porch of open arches, the remains of which are mere foundations. The porch probably supported the chapel of Our Lady mentioned in the indulgence of 1414, to persons visiting the chapel without the west door of St. Mary the Virgin of Tintern and giving alms for the repair of its building wherein was a figure of the Virgin which resisted all attempts to remove it.

Tombs.

Very few tombs remain in the church, and it is doubtful whether any of these are in their original positions.

The most interesting is a flat incised slab in the south aisle with the early Christian emblem of the fish and also a cross upon it. This stone is lettered in Gothic characters:

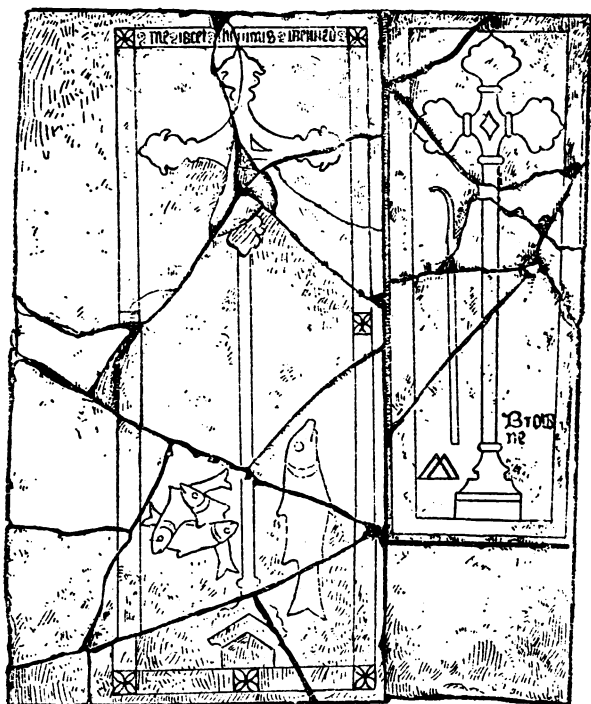
Hic jacet Philippus Wellsted.

Side by side with this tombstone and enclosed within the same railing is another incised slab with a cross and staff upon it, but without any inscription other than the name, **Browne**, casually placed near the foot of the cross.

THE MONASTIC BUILDINGS.

The cloister.

The cloister was a square court surrounded by the buildings necessary for the daily use of the monastery, and had covered alleys on the four sides. That next the church was virtually the living-room of the monks, and in it they sat and studied during their leisure time. The buildings



SEPULCHRAL SLABS IN S. AISLE.

round a Cistercian cloister are given in order in the *Consuetudines* for the progress of the Sunday procession which, after leaving the church, was to visit and sprinkle with holy water, the chapter-house, parlour, dorter, rere-dorter, warming-house, frater, kitchen and cellarer's building.

The first cloister at Tintern was only 76 feet from north to south, and was probably square, though its western wall has not been found.

This cloister was widened in the thirteenth century, northwards some 9 feet, and after the new church was built, southwards some 14 feet ; and from east to west it is 110 feet. It was surrounded by alleys 10 feet wide, with walls next the court which doubtless supported an open arcade.

Late in the fifteenth century the alleys were begun to be rebuilt and covered with a stone-vault, towards which work William Earl of Pembroke left in his will (1468) 100 tons of some material not specified. This work, however, seems never to have extended further than four bays of the east alley and the foundations of the wall for the south alley.

In the midst of the church wall, along which was a continuous stone seat, is an arched recess for the use of the claustral prior to see good order kept. There is also a seat along the west side of this cloister as far as the door from the outer parlour.

In the transept wall, outside the church door, are two large round-headed lockers, of the first work, for the reception of books for use in the cloister, of which one was built up by the fifteenth century rebuilding.

The vestry. Adjoining the north transept is a chamber, 56 feet long by 12 feet wide, which was divided by a solid wall. The eastern part was the vestry, gained by descending steps from the eastern of the two doorways in the transept. It was vaulted into three bays, of which the eastern remains complete, and there is a locker in the south wall. The western part was the book-closet, and is entered from the cloister by a doorway, of three orders, divided by a centre mullion, and was covered by a plain barrel vault.

Above the vestry was a chamber entered from the dorter by a doorway of which one jamb remains, and was the usual place for the treasury, and here the precious ornaments of the church were kept.

Piled up behind an iron railing in the vestry are the fragmentary remains of a number of sculptured monuments collected from the church, the most noteworthy being the figure of a knight in chain mail with sword and shield, formerly supposed to be the figure of Strongbow the invader of Ireland ; but none of these monuments can be certainly identified.

In front of the procession doorway from the church is a large grave slab cut to represent two coffin lids with foliated crosses. The northern half has traces of a crosier and an inscription of leaded letters :

[HIC JACET HENRICUS DE LANCAUT QU[ON]
DAM ABBAS DE VOTO.

Lancaut is the name of a peninsula on the Gloucestershire side of the Wye below Tintern. The abbey de Voto was a daughter of Tintern founded in Ireland by William the Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, in 1200.



DOORWAY FROM CLOISTER TO BOOK CLOSET.

The southern has in similar lettering,

HIC JACET JOHANNES DE LYUNS.

Who John de Lyuns (or perhaps "Lyons") was, is not known. The stones are undated ; but probably belong to the 13th century.

The next chamber to the vestry is the chapter-house, where the convent met daily after prime to discuss the temporal matters of the abbey, hear confessions and correct faults. A chapter of the Rule was always read, whence the name of the apartment is derived. The chapter-house.

This room at Tintern is 55 feet long by 28 feet wide, and is much ruined, though enough remains to show its character. The lower parts of the outer walls are of the twelfth century, though apparently not of the first work. It was completely altered in the thirteenth century, of which date was the entrance from the cloister consisting of three equal-sized openings having richly clustered piers. The room was vaulted into three alleys carried on small columns, and had windows in the east end and first bay on either side ; that on the south, however, was blocked when the vestry was built. Round the room were stone seats for the convent, raised on a platform, which remains. Part of the tile floor exists, together with one stone coffin. In the cloister alley without the west end are six grave slabs but without inscriptions.

Next the chapter-house was the parlour, a narrow chamber with a doorway of three orders from the cloister, and was where such talking as was necessary between the monks was allowed. The parlour.

North of the parlour was a narrow passage through the range to the infirmary, but nothing

of it remains except the lower parts of the side walls.

Adjoining this passage is another narrow room entered at its west end by a wide archway, and there is a doorway in the north wall.

The novices' lodging.

The remainder of the eastern range was occupied by a vaulted apartment 85 feet long by 28 feet wide, having five octagonal columns down the middle. The outer walls are for the first three bays of the original work cased internally; but the three northern bays are a late twelfth century enlargement, of which an original window remains on the east side of the northernmost bay. The vaulting was inserted in the thirteenth century when the narrow windows were put in the two southern bays on the east and the three northern on the west. The use of the apartment was for the novices, as has been proved by deduction in other cases.

The dorter.

Above the whole of the eastern range was the dorter, or sleeping place of the monks, 164 feet long. The pitch of its roof is shown against the transept of the church. It was gained by a staircase for use by night and another for use by day, of which the former has already been described in the north transept of the church, and the latter will be treated later. No part of the side walls remain.

The reredorter.

Projecting from the east side of the dorter was the reredorter, containing the latrines. Little of this building remains except the toothing of its two walls in that of the dorter range, but the northern wall has been traced some 33 feet by excavations. Along one side of the reredorter

ran the drain of the abbey, and over it would be the usual row of seats divided from one another by wooden partitions.

On the north side of the cloister, adjoining the eastern range, is an interesting block of building remaining to almost its full height. It consists on the ground floor of three divisions.

The eastern division, 17 feet by 9 feet, has a wide archway from the cloister and is vaulted by one groined bay and one of a plain barrel. On the east side is the opening leading to the novices' lodging, and at the north end are two openings; the one on the west is a doorway leading to a yard beyond, and the one to the east, at a much higher level, was over the day-stairs to the dormer. The ends of some of the steps still remain.

The middle division, 17 feet by 14 feet, is vaulted in two bays carried on corbels; it is entered from the cloister by a doorway of two members, which had a small window in the head. The side walls are blank, but the north end was formed by an open fireplace supported by arches on four square posts having narrow passages on either side. Originally this building extended northward with an open roof and was the warming-house, where a fire was kept in cold weather for the monks to warm themselves.

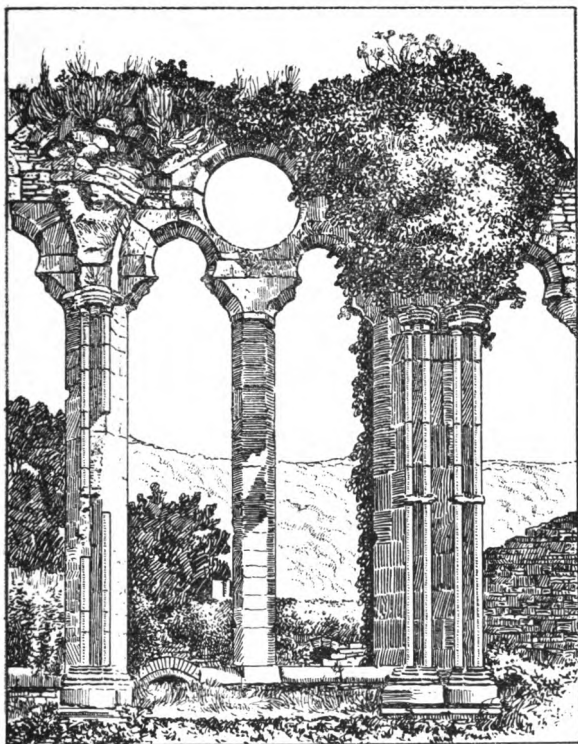
The
warming
house.

The western division of the block, 16 feet by 6 feet, is a vaulted chamber with a lancet window in the north end and entered by a small door from the frater. It was apparently a pantry or store-place in connection with the frater.

The upper storey of the block is of two divisions; the larger extends over the lobby and warming-house, and has three lancet windows.

towards the cloister with two in the opposite wall, and was entered from the dorter; the smaller division is over, and similar to the pantry, with a lancet to the north and a loop over the cloister. The use of this building was apparently for the prior, whose duty it was to see good order kept in the dorter. In the sixteenth century it was raised another storey, which had on the north two three-light windows and one single light, with Tudor heads; and a corresponding single light remains towards the cloister.

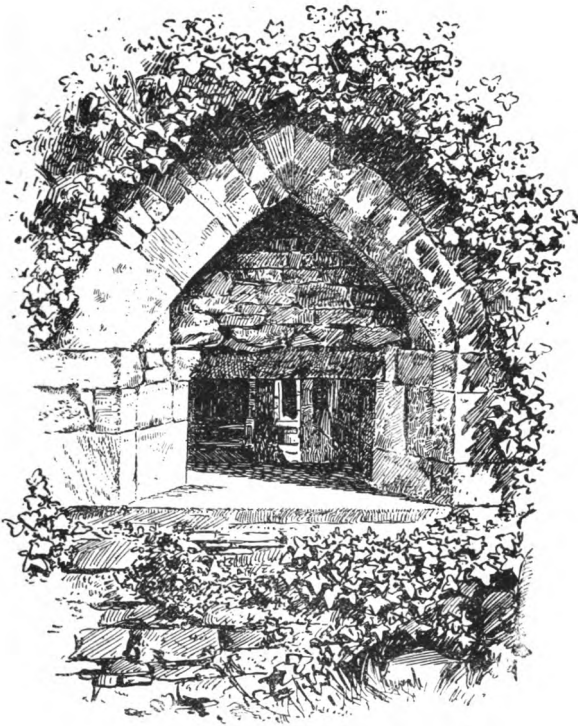
The frater. Next the block just described was the frater, or dining-hall of the monks, 84 feet from north to south by 29 feet wide, of four bays marked externally by shallow buttresses. Each clear bay contained two windows of four lights with plate tracery in the head, and had moulded arches on detached and banded columns internally, which were continued as wall panelling in the south bay on either side. On the west side is the projection for the pulpit where the reader for the week read from the Scriptures during meals. The entrance remains, and consists of an archway of two orders and has a vaulted lobby within. Three of the steps up to the pulpit remain to the north. At the south end of the west side is the serving hatch through which the food was passed from the kitchen. Next to it, but in the south end, is a shallow recess for a drop table. In the middle of the south end is the entrance, from the cloister, which was of four orders with detached shafts in the jambs. On the east side of the entrance is a double recess, one part being a lavatory to wash the spoons and the other a locker to store them.



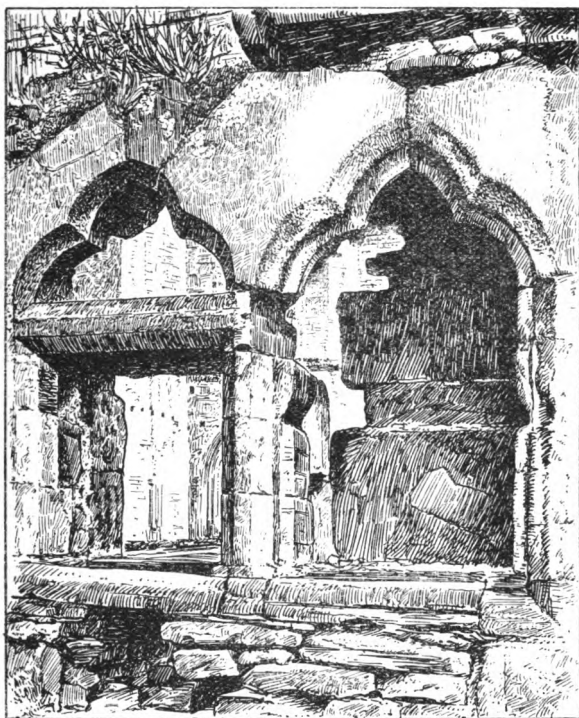
PART OF EAST WINDOW IN FRATER.



READER'S PULPIT IN FRATER.



SERVING HATCH FROM KITCHEN TO FRATER.



LAVATORY AND LOCKER IN FRATER.

The ground inside the frater has unfortunately been removed considerably below its floor level, which gives it an awkward appearance.

The first frater at Tintern stood east and west in the usual Benedictine fashion and was 23 feet wide. A joint in the side walls of the later frater shows how that building was built up to the former before its removal.

On either side of the frater door, towards the cloister, was a wide arch of similar design and separated therefrom by a smaller arch. The wide arches contained the lavatory basins, at which the monks washed before meals, and the smaller ones the roller towels with which they dried their hands. The two eastern arches remain, but the corresponding ones on the west are much ruined.

Next the west side of the frater is a chamber, which, having been at one time incorporated in a cottage, is puzzling to explain. Excavation however shows it had a cross wall 11 feet away from the frater wall, dividing the room in two. The part next the frater was a serving place with a doorway from the cloister. The other part was the kitchen, 24 feet from north to south by 22 feet wide. It has a doorway from the cloister on the south, another door into the building on the west, a cupboard, and a blocked doorway on the north, and a wide fireplace in the east wall. The fireplace seems to have been partly made into an oven in later days. The kitchen.

The east wall of the kitchen extends northwards over the drain, but is there broken off. It probably formed the east wall of a scullery. There are various remains of the cottage walls to the north of the kitchen.

**The
cellarium.**

The range of buildings occupying the west side of the cloister in Cistercian houses was for the use of the lay-brothers, under the charge of the cellarer, and was called in consequence the *cellarium*. This range at Tintern, after the thirteenth century, did not adjoin the church in the usual way, but was some 40 feet to the north and extended at least 180 feet. Over 100 feet of the southern part remains to a considerable height, but the rest is mere foundation beneath the turf.

On the ground floor the southern end is occupied by a vaulted chamber which was the outer parlour of the monastery, where the inmates might at certain times speak with their friends. It has a wide doorway to the cloister and is entered on the west by a porch* having a wide arched recess on the north side and a seat along the south. The inner doorway is a late insertion of the fifteenth century, at which date the porch was ceiled in stone. In the north-west angle of the parlour is a small door leading to a staircase to the room over the porch, and in the south-east angle is a doorway leading outwards.

Northward of the parlour is a square chamber which was also vaulted. It had no communication with the cloister, and appears to have been a cellar. In the west wall is a small window.

A skew passage with a doorway leads from the cloister to the next chamber of the range, which was the lay-brothers' frater with a doorway from the kitchen. It was vaulted in wide bays and had trefoiled-headed lancets in the west wall, and there is a doorway at the south end into the cellar.

* This porch is now used by visitors to the abbey to enter the grounds.

How far this frater extended northward is impossible to say, but the northern end of the range may, like the contemporary building at Beaulieu, have been used for the lay-brothers' infirmary. To the west of the frater are foundations which appear to be of a post-suppression house.

South of the western range is a small court having cloister alleys on the east and south. At the north end of the former, towards the court, is a square tank with a lias stone front, that seems to have been lined with lead, for storage of water.

Against the east wall are the foundations of a flight of steps leading to the upper storey of the western range. These were continued as a passage over the outer parlour to the range beyond, the upper storey of which was the lay-brothers' dorter. The steps were for day and night use, and the cloister alley formed direct communication with the church, through the skew passage in its north-west angle.

The room over the outer parlour was gained by the staircase to that above the porch, and formed the lodging of the cellarer. In the south wall is a late thirteenth century window, having one of two lights of the next century inserted therein.

The infirmary of the monks was required, not only for the temporary abode of the sick, but, as its name implies, for the permanent housing of the infirm and the aged who had been professed fifty years. For this purpose a large building was necessary, and it was always arranged in a separate group, consisting of a great hall, a chapel and a kitchen, besides other smaller chambers.

The monks' infirmary.

At Tintern the infirmary hall is placed east and west; it is 107 feet long by 54 feet wide and divided into a nave and aisles. None of it remained above ground, but it has been traced by excavation, and the walls stand in places nearly five feet above the original floor. It was entered in the middle of the west end by a doorway of three members, and there were passages leading to it from the cloister and the church.

At either end of this hall the side walls are blank, but the middle parts were divided into five arched bays resting on clustered columns of which the north-west and south-east responds remain.

There is a narrow doorway into the south aisle against the west wall.

The aisles were lighted by coupled lancet windows; the sills of two remain in the middle of the south wall. At the east end of the north aisle was a chamber, entered by a small doorway, which had an original chimney, many stones of its tun being found. There is a doorway towards the west end of the north aisle leading to a long building running northward which has only partly been traced. There was another original doorway further east.

The aisles, as was the case everywhere, were divided up in late days into separate rooms, of which alterations are a number of remains on both sides, but will shew clearer when more is excavated.

Northward of the infirmary are various walls, built round by cottages, which until further cleared are impossible to allocate, but the chapel and kitchen must have been in this position.

On the south and east of the infirmary was a garden surrounded by a high wall which still remains, and there was another wall from the south-west corner of the infirmary to the north-east corner of the church.

Some distance to the west of the church are extensive remains of buildings which also require to be further traced before their uses can be satisfactorily explained.

PART II.

By MORTON EVANS.

HISTORICAL NOTES.

The Cistercian Order, though of Continental origin, and with its centre always in France, owed its foundation chiefly to an Englishman—Stephen Harding—a native of Sherborne in Dorset, who was afterwards canonised.

In 1098 a little band of monks, of whom Harding was one, members of the Benedictine Monastery of Molesme in Burgandy, being of opinion that the Rule instituted by St. Benedict was not observed according to the intention of the Founder, and finding it impracticable to convert the brethren to their views, founded at Cîteaux in a remote corner of Burgundy not far from Dijon, a new monastery where they proposed to live according to the strict Rule in all its primitive purity.

More than 500 years had elapsed since the death of St. Benedict and in process of time the severity of the Rule had been mitigated considerably in practice.

The attempt to revert to the strict letter of the Rule without gloss or evasion, was regarded as an innovation and met with much opposition. But these enthusiasts persevered through incredible difficulties until finally the Cistercian (so called from Cistercium—Latin for Cîteaux) branch of

the Benedictines took form and became firmly established as an independent Order, with all proper ecclesiastical sanctions.

This was accomplished before the death in 1134 of Stephen, who became 3rd Abbot of Cîteaux.

The Rule was still that of St. Benedict, but with the object of securing its strict observance in future, according to the interpretation adopted at Cîteaux, laws were instituted regulating in the minutest particulars the mode of life in the Convents of the new Order, and a framework of government was devised better adapted than any other that then existed for preserving unity and discipline throughout the new Order.

The Cistercians abandoned the black habit of the Benedictines and adopted a white dress with a black scapular.

"*Sustine et abstine*," is said to have been their motto.

A return to primitive simplicity in worship as well as in mode of life was the aim of the founders. The duty of manual labour which St. Benedict had added to the three vows of Poverty, Chastity and Obedience, was made a special feature. The Cistercians were great agriculturists and wool merchants.

Unlike the Benedictines, who were the most learned order in Europe, the Cistercians were never distinguished for their attainments in literature or the arts, excepting architecture, in which they excelled.

Nearly all the older Monasteries in England were of the unreformed Benedictine Order.

The 12th Century was a time of religious excitement culminating in the enthusiasm which led to the Crusades for the recovery of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem.

The Cistercian Order, which under St. Bernard, took a leading part in the movement quickly spread over half Europe, and was regarded with special favour by the early Plantagenet Kings.

The first Cistercian Monastery in this country was founded A.D. 1129, at Waverley near Farnham in Surrey, towards the end of Henry I.'s reign and was colonised by monks from the Abbey of L'Aumône near Blois, itself a daughter of Cîteaux founded in 1121 by Theobald Count of Champagne at the request of Stephen Harding.

The early Norman Kings from time to time authorised their powerful subjects to acquire by conquest, if they could, lands in Wales.

By virtue of such a licence Walter Fitz-Richard obtained the Lordship of Nether Gwent or Striguil (now Chepstow) which he held as Lord Marcher with quasi-sovereign rights, subject however to the King of England. On the 9th May, 1131, in the 31st year of the reign of King Henry I., Walter founded Tintern Abbey for the benefit of the souls of himself and his ancestors. The monks were imported from the Abbey of L'Aumône. Waverley and Tintern were the only houses in Britain colonized from L'Aumône.

The name Tintern, Mr. J. G. Wood conjectures, is derived from Welsh words signifying "the house in the oak grove," probably an apt description

of the position of the monastery at the time of its foundation. The Forest of Dean then extended to the left bank of the Wye north of the Abbey. St. Briavels Castle, in former times the residence of the Constable of the Hundred of St. Briavels and Warden of the Forest of Dean, still remains a prominent landmark on the other side of the Wye almost within sight of the Abbey.

The Abbey itself was encompassed on three sides by the woods of Nether Gwent belonging to the Lord of Chepstow, or Striguil.

Offa's Dyke runs along the heights on the opposite side of the Wye, and serves to remind us of the devastating Border Wars which, waged at intervals for about 800 years, must have made the district little suited for settled habitation.

There is a tradition that a hermitage existed here at one time previous to the foundation of the monastery; also that a great victory was gained in the neighbourhood over the Saxons in A. D. 600 by the Welsh under St. Tudric or Theodoric, to whom is dedicated the Parish Church of Mathern (near Chepstow) where, dying from wounds received at the battle, he was buried.

If the immediate neighbourhood of the abbey was ever an inhabited place previous to the foundation of the monastery, it had probably ceased to be so when it was chosen as the site for a Cistercian house; because the rule of the Order forbade settlements near the haunts of men.

*“In civitatis, castellis, villis, nulla nostra
construenda sunt cœnobîa, sed in locis a
conversatione hominum semotis.”*

a rule befitting an Order which owed so much of its fame to St. Bernard of Clairvaux, of whom the Golden Legend quaintly relates :—

“He said that all he had learned of holy scripture he had learned it in woods, in fields, most by meditation and praying and confessed that he had none other masters but oaks and holm trees, this confessed he among his friends.”

Far removed from the distractions of the world they proposed to dedicate themselves wholly to the service of God in prayer and praise, sustaining their bodily wants by the labour of their hands.

According to St. Bernard :

“Bonum est nos hic esse, quia homo vivit purius, cadit rarius, surgit velocius, incedit cautius, quiescit securius, moritur felicius, purgatur citius præmiatur copiosius.”

A passage rendered by Wordsworth :—

*“Here man more purely lives, less oft doth fall,
More promptly rises, walks with stricter heed,
More safely rests, dies happier, is freed
Earlier from cleansing fires, and gains withal
A brighter crown.”*

Monasteries of the Cistercian Order were usually placed in sequestered valleys, by the side of running water :

*“Bernardus valles, colles Benedictus amabat
Oppida Franciscus, magnas Ignatius urbes.”*

Thomas Churchyard in his book called "The Worthiness of Wales," published in 1587, after describing Chepstow, proceeds :—

*"Beyond the same doth Tyntterne Abbey stand,
As old a Sell, as is within that Land :*

*Where divers things hath bene right worthie
note,*

Whereof as yet the troth I have not gote."

During the four centuries the monastery existed many things "right worthie note" may have happened there; but the records that have survived to the present time are so scanty that it is now less easy than ever to find out the truth. The fragmentary chronicles that remain are chiefly taken up with genealogies of the founders. They throw no light on the internal history of the abbey.

It has been conjectured that the bulk of the records may have been destroyed when Raglan Castle was dismantled after its surrender to the Parliamentary forces in 1646 by the Marquess of Worcester, to whose ancestor the monastery and most of its possessions were granted by Henry VIII.

The monastery was never very considerable in point of wealth or influence. Its abbots bore no prominent part in national affairs, nor was any member of the convent, so far as is known, specially distinguished in any way. But the Abbots were territorial magnates of some importance, and as such, were entrusted with various public employments.

The charge of the King's demesne lands this side Trent, was in 1266, committed by Henry III. to the Abbot of Tintern during pleasure.

Edward I. in 1268 appointed the Abbot of Tintern, one of the Commissioners for the settlement of peace with Prince Llewellyn of Wales.

In 1270, however, the abbot appears in a less reputable rôle, for he was accused at a Forest Court held at Gloucester in that year of abetting a gang of poachers and receiving from them deer stolen from the King's Forest of Dean.

Perhaps the abbot succeeded in clearing himself, or in shewing that the supply of the convent larder was an object worthy enough in itself to justify the irregularity; at any rate in 1277 the same abbot appears to have been entrusted with the office of auditor of the accounts of the collectors of a fine, levied by the King on the burgesses of Bristol for divers trespasses during the late disturbance of the realm.

Although the abbots of Tintern did not finally take rank among the abbots who had seats in Parliament, the abbot of Tintern was summoned to various Parliaments between 1294 and 1305, and may, therefore, have taken part in the deliberations of those famous assemblies in which our present parliamentary institutions took shape. His attendance does not seem to have been required after 1305.

Only two daughter houses were colonised from Tintern, viz. : Kingswood (Co. Glouc. then Wilts.) and Tintern Minor, or de Voto, near Wexford in Ireland.

The estimation in which Tintern was held in about the middle of the 15th century may be gathered from the following quotation from "The Boke of Nurture," by John Russell, Steward of

Duke Humphrey of Gloucester, wherein, treating of ceremonial differences of degree, he says :—

*“Also the abbote of Westmynstere, the hiest of
this lande,
The abbot of tynterne the poorest, y understande
They ar bothe abbotes of name, and not lyke of
fame to fande ;
Yet Tynterne with Westmynster shall nowther
sitte ne stande.”*

According to Leland who wrote about the time of the Dissolution “*There was a Sanctuary, grauntid to Tinterne ; but it hath not been usid many a day.*”

If we are to judge merely from existing records the life of the monastery must have been a comparatively uneventful one. But it is not likely that the monks were allowed to pursue the even tenor of their way altogether undisturbed. Their position on the Border could not have been very secure during hostilities against the Princes of Wales, who maintained long after the foundation of the monastery, more or less complete independence. The neighbouring Cistercian monastery of Grâce Dieu was burned down in 1233 during the rebellion of the Earl of Pembroke.

During the tumultuous reigns of John and Henry III. the powerful families of Marshal, Bigod, and de Clare, who were amongst the chief leaders of the baronage in the struggle for freedom, were those most closely identified with the Abbey as patrons, or benefactors.

It is not known who was the first Abbot of Abbot E. Tintern. In a letter by the Abbots of Quarr and Woburn to the Abbot of Cîteaux, written some time before 1170, reference is made to

E. Abbot of Tintern, whose full name is not given. It is just possible that he may have been the first Abbot.

Death of
Walter
Fitz-
Richard,
1138.

Walter Fitz-Richard, the Founder, died without issue in 1138, and was buried in the Abbey. Upon his death the lordship of Striguil reverted to the Crown and was regranted by King Stephen to Walter's nephew, Gilbert Strongbow, whom he created Earl of Pembroke. Gilbert confirmed to the monastery the whole donation of his uncle Walter, the Founder, comprising the Hay (or enclosure) of Porthcasseg, Penterry with fisheries, and Madgetts (on the other side of the Wye in Gloucs.). He also gave them, amongst other property, lands in the Moor of Magor, on the Severn, and his demesne in Woolaston with fisheries.

Charter by
Gilbert
Strongbow,
1st Earl of
Pembroke.

Grant by
Milo, Earl
of Hereford.

Under a grant from Milo, Earl of Hereford, who died in 1143, the monks of Tintern were entitled to a forge at St. Briavels in the Forest of Dean.

Death of
Gilbert
Strongbow,
1148.

Gilbert Strongbow died in 1148, and was buried in the Abbey.

Charter by
Richard
Strongbow,
2nd Earl of
Pembroke.

His son, Richard Strongbow, second Earl of Pembroke, who succeeded to the lordship, is the Strongbow famous in history as the successful invader of Ireland in 1170. He confirmed the monastery in the possessions granted to it by his great-uncle Walter, the Founder, and his own father, except that he granted other property in Woolaston in exchange for Penterry.

Died 1178.

Earl Richard married Eva, the King of Leinster's daughter, and died in 1178, leaving by her an only child, Isabella, who became a ward of King Henry II. The figure of a knight in chain mail.

above referred to, has been wrongly supposed to represent this Strongbow, who, however, is said to have been buried not at Tintern, but at Gloucester, though accounts differ as to his place of burial.

King Henry II. granted to the Abbey in 1155 a charter of confirmation of the donations made by the Founder and his successors including certain lands in Aylburton (Ailbrictona) and elsewhere, given to the Abbey by Queen Adeliza, the second wife of King Henry I. Henry II also granted to the Abbey by two other charters exemption from tolls at various seaports, and from all secular exactions and services.

Charters by Henry II., 1155.

The first Abbot of Tintern, whose name has been ascertained, is Henry, who was elected to Waverley in succession to Gilbert, late Abbot there, and died in 1182.

Abbot Henry.

Henry's successor at Tintern was probably William, under whose rule the monastery seems to have got into an unsatisfactory state, for in 1188 he was deposed, or he resigned, consequent on a visitation from Cîteaux, and Vido (Guy) Abbot of Kingswood was elected in his stead.

Abbot William.

Abbot Guy, 1188.

Richard I., immediately after his accession in 1189, gave Strongbow's daughter Isabella in marriage to William the Marshal, whom he created Earl of Pembroke.

Marriage of Isabella, 1189

By this marriage the lordship of Striguil passed in right of his wife to William the Marshal—illustrious in the annals of England as statesman and patriot.

An indication of the chief source of wealth of the Cistercians at this period is afforded by the fact that in 1193 the Cistercian monasteries were

Cistercians' wool.

compelled to give up the whole of their wool for one year, towards the ransom of Richard I. from imprisonment in Germany. The wool of the Cistercians was again demanded by Richard on his return in the following year, and was compounded for by a fine. From the return known as the Hundred Rolls made in 1276, we learn that the Abbot of Tintern was in the habit of selling his wool to Flemish merchants.

**Acquisition
of churches
of Woolas-
ton and
Alvington.**

The Convent of Tintern early departed from a rule of the Cistercians forbidding the acquisition of the tithes of churches for some time between 1186 and 1199 William, Bishop of Hereford, licensed the appropriation by the Abbey of the church of Woolaston in Gloucestershire also of the chapel of Alvington, a vicar's portion being reserved.

This licence was confirmed by Bishop William's successors, Giles and Hugh, but did not receive Papal confirmation until 1253.

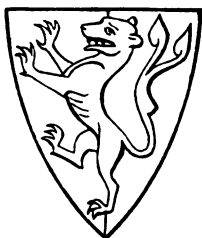
**Foundation
of Abbey of
Tintern
Minor or de
Voto, 1200.**

In 1200 William the Marshal founded near Wexford in Ireland the Abbey of Tintern Minor which was supplied with monks from Tintern, John Torel (Tyrrell) being the first abbot. Tintern Minor was also called the Abbey de Voto, because it is said to have been founded in pursuance of a vow made by the Earl whilst at sea during a storm in the Irish Channel, that he would found a monastery at the first place to which he should come safely to land.

Henry de Lancut, one of the Abbots of de Voto, lies buried at the foot of the steps leading from the cloister at Tintern into the church.

The Earl died in 1219, while Regent of England for Henry III. and was buried at the Temple in London, where his monument still exists. His arms were *Party per pale or and vert a lion rampant double quevé gules.*

Death of William the Marshal the Elder, 1219.



His Widow Isabella, the daughter of Richard Strongbow, died shortly after and was buried at Tintern.

There were 10 children of the marriage, viz. : 5 sons and 5 daughters. The sons William, Richard, Gilbert, Walter and Anselm were all childless. Each (except Anselm) succeeded in turn to the dignities of Marshal of England, Earl of Pembroke and Lord of Striguil, and on the death of the last the male line of William the Marshal the Elder being extinct the estates were partitioned amongst the five daughters or their representatives.

William the second Earl was one of the barons charged with the execution of Magna Carta. On 22nd March, 1223, he granted to the Abbey a charter which is the most important of the series. He confirmed to the Abbey amongst other properties the Hay of Porthcasseg and the water of Angidy with fisheries in Wye and Severn, the demesne of Woolaston with the advowson of the church and whatever the Abbey had in Tidenham and Penterry,

Charter by William the Marshal the Younger, 1223.

Madgetts and Brockweir with pasturage in Tidenham Chase, the freedom of the passage of Beachley over Severn, property in Magor, Undy, Redwick, with pasturage in Green Moor, the multure of his men of Penterry, Porthcasseg, Tintern and Landogo to the Abbey Mill of Angidy, the Grange of Rogerston, and numerous other properties. The Abbey and its possessions were declared to be free from forest law and from all tolls and secular exactions. Freedom of pasturage with wood for fuel and building, and quarries for building were granted to the Abbey through all the Welsh Forests of the Earl from Wye to Usk. The land of Trellech which the charter recites, the monks held by the gift of Gilbert Strongbow and Richard the Earl's grandfather was granted and confirmed by bounds which so far as they can now be followed seem to be those of the present township of Trellech Grange.

The charter also contains a grant of the land of Pellenny (now Monkswood) bordering upon Usk together with fishings in that river.

Death of
William the
Marshal the
Younger,
1231.

William the 2nd Earl died in 1231 and was buried like his father in the Temple at London, where his effigy is still preserved. His arms were



Party per pale or and vert a lion rampant quevé gules.

On 16th June, 1234, King Henry III. granted to his sister Alienora, the widow of William late Earl of Pembroke, that if she died before satisfying such creditors as Ralph, Abbot of Tintern and Ralph, Parson of Cheleford should take money from, as a loan to her use, the money should be repaid in full out of her moveables before distribution or the payment of any other debts.

Notwithstanding a vow of chastity made by her on William's death, Alienora contracted in 1238 a second marriage with the famous Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester.

At the time of her first husband's death she was supposed to be pregnant. For this reason and because the King doubted the loyalty of Richard, the next brother, the King refused to grant him seisin of his honours and lands; and appointed John of Monmouth "custos" thereof until seisin was granted. In this interregnum on 20th June, 1231, a mandate was issued by the King to John of Monmouth to allow the Abbot of Tintern his reasonable estover in the forest of Netherwent as he had been accustomed to have in the time of William the Marshal the Elder, and of his son William.

And a Royal Protection granted to the Abbey on 10th January, 1234, is expressed to be only for so long as the Abbot and monks did not receive Earl Richard then at war with the King or any other of the King's enemies. Earl Richard was mortally wounded at Kildare in the course of this struggle and died in prison on 16th April, 1234. In consideration of losses sustained in this

Death of
Earl
Richard
1234.

war the Abbot was allowed by licence dated 16th October, 1234, to have during pleasure 40 mares with their foals in Dean Forest.

Charters by
Earl
Gilbert.

Richard was succeeded by the next brother Gilbert, who granted a confirmation charter to the Abbey including land which William his brother had given near Rogerston for the purpose of maintaining for ever a lamp at the tomb of their mother Isabella. Earl Gilbert also by a separate charter granted to the Abbey in perpetuity, for the purpose of maintaining their tannery at Tintern, all the bark from timber felled in his forest at Nether Gwent at the rate of 2*d.* per load.

By a further charter dated 23rd April, 1240, he granted to the Abbey, for the refectory of the infirm brethren, a portion of all deer killed in his park of Trellech.

Death of
Earl
Gilbert,
1241.

Gilbert was killed in a tournament at Warwick on 27th June, 1241, and was buried in the Temple, London, where his effigy is preserved beside those of his father and eldest brother.

Charter by
Earl
Walter,
1245.

He was succeeded by the next brother, Walter, who in 1245 granted a charter containing additional lands.

Abbot
Ralph.

In that year Ralph, Abbot of Tintern (perhaps the same Ralph who was Abbot in 1234) was made Abbot of Dunkeswell, in Dorset, from which monastery he was in 1252 elected to Waverley, in succession to Walter Giffard, the tenth Abbot of that monastery.

Abbot Ralph is described in the Annals of Waverley as

*"Vir quidem morum gravitate ac sapientiæ
fulgore non mediocriter adornatus :"*

the only characterisation that has been found on record of any Abbot of Tintern.

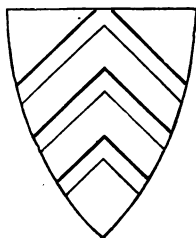
Earl Walter died in 1245, and was buried at Tintern "*ubi plures magnifici antecessores sui sunt sepulti.*"

Death of
Earls
Walter and
Anselm,
1245.

The next and last brother Anselm died in the same year before receiving investiture, and was also buried at Tintern.

With him the male issue of William the Marshal the Elder became extinct, and a partition followed of the estates amongst the five daughters and their descendants. The eldest daughter, Maud, then Countess Warrenne, took the southern part of the lordship of Striguil, where the Abbey and most of its possessions lay. The northern portion which included Trellech fell to Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester, son of the 2nd daughter Isabella by her first husband Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester. This Gilbert was one of the barons charged with the execution of Magna Carta. He died in 1230, and was buried before the High Altar of Tewkesbury Abbey, the Abbots of Tewkesbury, Tintern, Flaxley, Keynesham and Twyford assisting with a great multitude of religious of divers orders. His arms were *or, three chevrons gules.*

Partition of
Estates
amongst
daughters
of 1st Earl
of Pem-
broke and
their issue.



Isabella married secondly Richard, Earl of Cornwall, a natural son of King John, and died in 1239.

**Charter by
Richard,
Earl of
Gloucester,
1246.**

By a charter dated at Usk the Sunday after the Feast of St. James the Apostle, 30 Henry III. (April, 1246), Richard, Earl of Gloucester, confirmed the gift of William, 2nd Earl of Pembroke, of the lands of Trellech, of Pellenny, the possessions of the Abbey in Usk and Trellech, and 313 acres in Coytgarth, in the Manor of Trellech, given by Roger de Clifford and Hugh le Brun, and he granted the right to take stone for building from Wyewood as hitherto enjoyed by the monks, with exemptions similar to those granted in the charter of William.

**Grant by
Maud
Luvell.**

With the assent of this Earl of Gloucester, Maud Luvell of Trellech granted to the Abbey 60 acres of arable land in Coytgarth, to be held of the Earl's Manor of Trellech.

**Charter by
Fulke de
Lucy.**

By a charter, the date of which is uncertain, Fulke de Lucy granted to the Abbey 5ls. of yearly rent in the vill of Hewelsfield, with all other issues which might belong to him in the vill to be held of him and his successors in frankalmoign in consideration of the payment by the monks of 55 merks.

Countess Maud died on the 29th March, 1248. She had married firstly Hugh Bigod, third Earl of Norfolk, who died about 1240, and secondly Earl Warrenne. She was buried in the Choir at Tintern, whither her body was borne by her four sons, viz.: Roger Bigod, Hugh Bigod, Ralph Bigod, and John Warrenne. Her share of the lordship of Striguil passed to her son, Roger Bigod, fourth Earl of Norfolk.

ABBOT'S SEAL (IMPERFECT) A.D. 1256.
FROM CAST AT BRIT. MUSEUM.



SIG[ILLUM] [AB]Batis de TIN[TERNA].

Prince Edward of Wales (afterwards King Edward I.) by a charter dated 5th April, 1266, granted to the Abbey whatever he had or ought to have in the vill of Hewelsfield.

Charter by Prince Edward of Wales, 1266.

By a return to an inquisition held in 1269 under a Royal Commission, it was found that the Abbot and Convent, by charters of the King's predecessors, were accustomed to have mines in the Forest of Dean for their own forge freely, and had never given anything for the same, also that by charters of the Earl of Hereford, it was granted to the said Abbot and Convent to have another forge in the Forest.

Forges in Forest of Dean.

Roger Bigod, fourth Earl of Norfolk, dying without issue in 1270, was succeeded by his nephew Roger, son of Countess Maud's second son Hugh.

Death of Roger, 4th Earl of Norfolk, 1270.

John, Abbot of Tintern, consecrated Hugh de Leukenor, Abbot of Waverley, on St. Edmund's Day, 1276.

Abbot John, 1276.

The church was rebuilt by the 5th Earl of Norfolk. According to the Itinerary of William Worcester, who visited the Abbey of Tintern in 1478, and wrote an account containing many particulars concerning it, the Convent entered the new church for the purpose of celebrating mass in 1287.

Rebuilding of the church.

In the following year, according to the same authority, on 3rd October the Convent took possession of the choir, and the first mass was celebrated at the High Altar.

Of the possessions of the Abbey at about the time the new church was opened, we have a record in the survey known as the Taxatio

Taxatio Ecclesiastica of Pope Nicholas IV.

Ecclesiastica of Pope Nicholas IV., which was made between 1288–91 by the order of Edward I. in consequence of the grant by the Pope to that King of the tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices towards defraying the expenses of an expedition to the Holy Land.

The duty of collecting for the King the tenths within the Diocese of Llandaff often fell on the Abbot of Tintern, and proved very burdensome, judging by the frequent petitions by the Abbot to the King for relief.

By this survey, all taxes as well to the Kings as to the Popes, were regulated until the time of Henry VIII.

The area of plough and meadow land in the possession of the Abbey is returned at about 2,723 acres, exclusive of woods and waste, which would probably be of much greater extent. The property of the Convent included granges or farms at Tintern, Rogerston, Pellenny, Trellech, and elsewhere; also lands in the Parishes of St. Bride's and Undy, at Broadmeadow and the moor in the Parish of Magor, at Penho and Llandavenny and elsewhere; a weir and fisheries in the Wye at Tintern, and a weir and a half at Trellech; mills at Rogerston and Trellech, also a fulling-mill and tannery at Trellech.

The profits from the sale of honey at Trellech are stated at 5s. The church of Woolaston and a share in the church of Tidenham, both in the Co. of Glouc., are enumerated amongst the possessions of the Abbey, but no other property in Gloucs., although the Abbey had, as we have seen, other possessions in that county.

The profit derived from 100 cows, 1,000 ewes, and 2,264 wethers is included in the estimate. The total revenue of the Abbey from all sources is returned at £131 16s. 4d., which is equivalent to much more in our money.

By a charter (undated) but probably granted soon after 1270, Roger 5th Earl of Norfolk of the Bigod family after reciting that it would be to his advantage and the preservation of the forest of Wentwood to assign to the Abbey a part of the forest in compensation for their rights of common over the remainder, granted to the Abbey in severalty a portion of the forest in the neighbourhood of Tintern and Trellech by bounds which are minutely described.

By a further charter dated 4th August, 1301, the same Earl confirmed to the Abbey their possessions in the southern part of the lordship of Striguil and elsewhere very much in the terms set forth in the charter of 1223 by William the Marshal the Younger; and by another charter of the same date he confirmed to the Abbey their burgages in Striguil.

Charters by Roger, 5th Earl of Norfolk, 1301.

By a charter dated 18th May, 1302, the same Earl, having previously obtained the licence of the Crown, granted to the Abbey the Manor of Acle in Norfolk with the advowson of the church.

Grant of manor and Church of Acle, 1302.

And by another charter, undated, but stated by William Worcester to be of the same year, the Earl granted to the Abbey the Church of S. Edward Halvergate in Norfolk apparently without any licence from the Crown, for on 10th June, 1307, a Royal Pardon was issued to the

Grant of church of Halvergate.

Abbot and Convent for appropriating this church, and licence was given to them to retain it.

**Grant of
Manor of
Alvredes-
ton, 1302.**

By yet another charter, dated 29th Oct., 1302, Earl Roger granted to the Abbey his Manor of Alvredeston in exchange for the Manor of Platelanda belonging to the Abbey.

An undated charter by the same Earl confirms a charter (also undated) granted between 1271-81 by Sir Bartholomew de Mora to the Abbey of lands in Portreveston and in Magor; also an alder wood in Lanwaryn.

By a further charter (undated) Earl Roger granted to the Abbey in consideration of 25 merks 9 shillings and 6*d.* paid by the Monks, lands at Madgetts and elsewhere, reserving a yearly rent of 9*s.* 8*d.*

**Abbot Hugh
de Wyke,
1305.**

In 1305 Hugh de Wyke was elected Abbot, an office which he retained until his death 15 years later. He is the only Abbot of Tintern the dates of whose election and death are known.

On the death in 1306 without issue, of Roger, 5th Earl of Norfolk of the Bigod family, the lordship of Striguil, which had been surrendered by him with other possessions to the King and regranted in 1302 in tail male, reverted to the Crown.

In this year the Abbot of Tintern obtained judgment in his favour in a suit brought against him by his men of Acle, who accused him of oppressing them by requiring services other than those accustomed.

**Confirma-
tion of 22
charters by
Edward I.,
1307.**

At Lady Day, 1307, seventeen of the charters in favour of the Abbey referred to above were

confirmed by King Edward I., then at Carlisle on his last expedition against the Scots.

This confirmation was obtained at the suit of Brother Edward, who on the 10th June following received at London by special direction of the King (still in the neighbourhood of Carlisle) the Royal confirmation of five other charters above mentioned. The King died in the following month.

Edward II. granted the lordship of Striguil, which had remained in the hands of the Crown since 1306, to his half-brother Thomas de Brotherton, whom he created Earl of Norfolk by charter dated 16th Dec., 1312.

**Grant by
Edward II.
of lordship
to Thos. de
Brotherton,
1312.**

By Royal letters dated the 3rd August, 1314, the Abbot and Convent were requested to receive into their house John de Ispann[ia], who had long served the King, and to deliver to him for life suitable maintenance and a chamber for residence, and on 18th August, 1319, the King requested the Abbot and Convent to admit into their house as one of their brethren until further order, Brother William de Bromfeld, monk of the Abbey of Holmcoultram, which had been wasted by the Scots. This seems a convenient method sometimes adopted by Royalty of providing for dependants. As late as 25th March, 1528, we find a letter from the Princess's Council to Wolsey, suggesting that 69 of the poorest of her servants thrown out of occupation by the breaking up of her household in the Marches should be quartered amongst various Abbeys, including Tintern.

By Royal Letters Patent dated 3rd May, 1320, licence was granted to Wm. Joce the Younger to

grant in mortmain to the Abbey 16 acres of land in Goithithel (? Coed Ithel).

**Grant of
Ithelsweir.**

The grant itself has not been traced, but by a charter dated 25th March, 1330, John Joce de la Newelonde, son and heir of Richard Joce, released to the Abbot and Convent all claim to a weir in the Wye called Itheleswere and the fishery appertaining thereto which the Abbot and Convent held by grant from William Joce the son of William de la Newelonde.

**Death of
Abbot
Hugh de
Wyke, 1320.**

Abbot Hugh de Wyke died at London on the Vigil of S. Martin [10th November], 1320, and was buried at Stratford outside London, brother Walter de Hereford, the Cellarer, and brother Gilbert Yvor of the Forest of Dean, his servant, being present.

**Abbot
Walter de
Hereford,
1321.**

On 9th February, 1321, Walter de Hereford was elected Abbot, and installed in the presence of the Abbots of Dore, Waverley, Rewley, Kingswood, and the Prior of L'Aumône with one colleague, viz. : brother William.

King Edward II. on 15th February, 1325, granted to the Abbey free warren in all their demesne lands of the Manor of Acle (County Norfolk).

**Visit of
Edward II.
1326.**

The rule of Abbot Walter was distinguished by the only Royal visit to Tintern of which any record remains. Edward II. in his flight through Wales shortly before he was deposed, spent the 14th and 15th October, 1326, at Tintern, transacting a considerable amount of business there as appears from numerous Royal letters and other instruments dated at Tintern.

By a charter sealed at Chepstow on 16th October, 1325, the King granted to the monks a moiety of the weir of Bigsweir with the fishery there, but without right to timber from the Forest of Dean for repairs; and on the 20th of the same month, the King being still at Chepstow, a Royal Protection for two years was granted to the Abbey.

Grant by
Edward II.
of moiety of
Bigsweir,
1326.

Edward II. was deposed on the 20th January, 1327, but the grant made by him to the Abbey was not withdrawn by his successor.

The fishery in question appears to have been claimed in 1315 by the Bishop of Llandaff.

In a petition by the Warden of Dean Forest in 1334, to be allowed a deduction in respect of this grant to the Abbey from the "ferm" of the forest for which he was accountable to the Crown, the fishery is described as "une demi Gortz en veye pres de Chastel" [a half weir in the Wye near the Castle (scil. St. Briavels.)]

Abbot Walter's rule came to an end sometime between 26th March, 1327, and 3rd December, 1330. because on the former date he had Royal letters nominating Walter de Longeneye and John, son of John de la Lee, his Attorneys in England, whilst on the latter date similar letters were issued to Roger de Camme, Abbot of Tintern, nominating brother Walter de Longeneye and Peter Buckeskyn his Attorneys in England for 3 years.

Abbot
Roger de
Camme,
1330.

The Abbey got possession at an early date of the livings of All Saints, Lydd, in the county of Kent, and St. Leonard's, Magor, in the county of Monmouth.

Acquisition
of Churches
of All
Saints,
Lydd, & St.
Leonard's,
Magor.

These churches had been granted by Pope Gregory IX. to the Abbey de Gloria founded by him in the diocese of Anagni, Italy. In 1327 a licence was granted by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the Abbey de Gloria to lease the church of Lydd to Tintern for 5 years.

This was probably not the first lease for in 1282 the Archbishop of Canterbury issued a Commission of enquiry as to the right of the Abbey de Gloria to appropriate the Church of Lydd and the authority by which they had granted it in lease without having obtained the licence of the Bishop, and had neglected the cure of souls there.

Pope John XXII. (1316-1334) on its being represented to him that the revenues had become so diminished that the churches of Lydd and Magor were almost of no use to the Monastery de Gloria, licensed the Abbot and Convent to grant the churches for a certain sum of money to Tintern Abbey in fee farm for ever.

In 1370 the Bishop of Llandaff having been commissioned by King Edward III. to make enquiry as to the possessions of aliens in his diocese, sought information from the Abbot of Tintern concerning the Church at Magor, but met with evasive replies.

**Abbot John,
1370.**

The Bishop certified to the King that Brother John, Abbot of Tintern, claimed to hold the Parish Church of Magor in fee farm of the Abbot and Convent de Gloria; but asserted at one time that 20 merks yearly were sent beyond seas to the said Abbey, and at another that this sum was paid to the Pope; and although the Bishop had diligently enquired for several years both at Rome and in

England he had been unable to obtain sure information respecting that house. Finally, on the assumption that the Abbey de Gloria was in France, with which country the King was at war, the revenues of the church were in 1371 sequestered to the King's use, and, strangely enough, it was not until 1385, on representation being made to Richard II. that the Abbey de Gloria was in Italy, that directions were given for the sequestration to be removed if this were shown to be the case.

By Papal Bull of 6th March, 1414, confirming Letters Patent dated 15th May, 1413, of Otho, Cardinal Deacon of Colonna (afterwards Pope Martin V.), which recited that it had been brought to the Cardinal's notice that on account of wars and the "malice" of the times and other calamities which had long afflicted those parts, the churches had become practically of no benefit to the Monastery de Gloria, the two churches were, with the consent of the monastery, appropriated and annexed to Tintern Abbey in perpetuity.

This appropriation was confirmed by King Henry VI. by Letters Patent dated 26th January, 1442.

The churches remained the property of Tintern Abbey until the Dissolution. One of the vicars presented by the Abbot and Convent to the church of All Saints Lydd, was Thomas Wolsey (afterwards Cardinal), who was appointed in 1506.

Some rather obscure monetary transactions of the Abbey with Italy were, perhaps, connected with the acquisition of these churches.

Abbot
Gilbert,
1340.

On July 21st 1340, Brother Gilbert, Abbot of St. Mary's, Tintern, acknowledged before the Chancellor, for himself and convent, that they owed to Michael Simonetti de Luca, Merchant, £174 to be levied in default of payment on their property in Norfolk. This obligation was duly cancelled on payment.

Again, under date 30th August 1395, John Wysebeeche Abbot of Tintern Nicholas Ailmore Prior, John Brokwere sub-prior, Walter Brugge, Cellarer, and 11 monks (all of whom are named) by Notarial Instrument executed in the Chapter House at Tintern, appointed Nicholas de Luca and Nicholas Russell de Strociiis, merchants of Florence, their agents for recovering certain sums of money received by the Company of Thomas March de Strociiis for payment to the Abbot and Convent de Gloria in the diocese of Anagni.

Communication with the mother house L'Aumône and with Cîteaux must have been considerably interrupted during the prolonged wars between England and France. The presence, as above mentioned, of the Prior of L'Aumône with a brother monk, at the installation of Abbot Walter in 1321, serves to remind us of this over-sea connection of Tintern. Under date of 2nd August, 1331, we find a Royal Order to the Constable of Dover Castle and Warden of the Cinque Ports to permit Abbot Roger de Camme, who was going to his Chapter General at Cîteaux, to embark.

Dispute as
to raising
of weirs,
1331.

A dispute arose in this Abbot's time between the monastery and the Earl of Lancaster's town of Monmouth owing to the Abbot having raised certain weirs in the Wye, viz. Bigsweir, Ithelsweir,

Ashweir, Wallweir, Plumbweir, Stanweir, Brockweir, &c., so that the approach to Monmouth by water was obstructed. Under the King's Commission an inquisition was held in 1331 of the men of Gloucs. and Hereford, whereby it was found that the abbot had obstructed the navigation by raising the weirs above their former level. The sheriff of Gloucs. was accordingly ordered to lower the weirs to their former level, and he entrusted the execution of the order to the bailiff of St. Briavels, within whose liberty the weirs were assumed to be ; but the work of destruction was forcibly interrupted by the Abbot of Tintern and two of his monks. Ultimately, on the appeal of the Abbot to the King, all proceedings under the Commission, and in reference to the assault committed by the Abbot, were stayed pending the consideration of the Abbot's ingenious plea that all the weirs excepting a moiety of Bigsweir were within the liberty of Striguil in Wales, and not within the body of any English county, and that consequently the proceedings taken on the assumption that the weirs were in Gloucestershire were invalid. A Commission was accordingly issued in 1334, to ascertain whether the weirs were in fact within the County of Gloucester or the Liberty of Striguil ; but the result does not appear, and the case may be still undetermined.

A curious story of temporarily successful forgery by William Martel, a monk of Tintern, in a case in which one would have supposed imposture to be exceptionally difficult, if not impossible, is told in the English Patent Rolls and the Papal Registers for 1332-3.

Forgery by
a monk of
Tintern,
1332.

This William Martel claimed to be Prior of the neighbouring monastery of Goldcliff by virtue of a Bull of presentation from the Pope.

Although he had not brought the usual letters of presentation to the King from the Pope, or letters from the Abbot of Bec in Normandy, of which Goldcliff was a cell, the King, at the request of certain magnates of the realm, deprived Philip de Gopilariis, who had recently, with the King's consent, been instituted as Prior on the presentation of the Abbot of Bec, and by an order dated 1st February, 1332, caused the temporalities to be delivered to William Martel. From a memorandum on the record it appears that Martel, characteristically enough, instead of paying down the fee of 40 merks due to the Crown for this order, got one of his powerful friends to go bail for it.

His tenure of the ill-gotten office was brief, for on 2nd April, 1332, the Bishops of Llandaff and St. David's were directed by the Pope to seize and imprison him and his accomplices for forgery of papal letters, and to send the documents to Rome. On the 6th February, 1333, a Royal mandate was issued directing the restitution to Philip de Gopilariis of the temporalities which had been seized into the King's hands.

**Relations
with
Tintern
Minor.**

In 1346, we have an instance of disciplinary action by the mother house at Tintern over its Irish daughter in the removal by the Abbot of Tintern of Roger Codd, the Abbot of de Voto.

**Abbot John
Westbych.**

This relationship is further illustrated by the fact of John Westbych, Abbot of Tintern, entering into a bond with the Prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, in 1387, guaranteeing payment of a rent of 13

marks a year, which was reserved in a grant made in 1255 by the Monastery of Christ Church of part of the site of the Abbey de Voto.

The responsibility was by no means nominal, for the Irish Monastery was constantly getting into arrear, and at length, on 27th January, 1407, the Monastery of Christ Church caused the Rectory of Lydd [Co. Kent], the property of Tintern Abbey, which lay nearest to hand, to be sequestrated for payment of seven years' arrears of this rent.

On 27th August, 1399, John Malimsberi (? Malmesbury), described as a Cistercian monk of St. Mary's, Tintern, was made a Papal Chaplain, and in May, 1413, John Chernyllis, Abbot of Tintern, and John Limebirgh, one of his monks, were appointed Papal Chaplains, probably as the result of a visit to Rome, about the appropriation of the Churches of Lydd and Magor, which, as we have seen, took place in that year.

In March of the following year letters were issued by the Pope from Bologna granting a special indulgence to persons visiting the Chapel without the West door of the Church of St Mary the Virgin Tintern, and giving alms for the repair of its buildings, wherein was a figure of the Virgin that resisted all attempts to move it; on account of which miracle and because mass was said daily by the monks at the altar of the Chapel a very great multitude resorted to the Chapel.

Miraculous
figure of
Virgin,
1414.

Nothing is known now of this Chapel. The foundations of some building, apparently of the nature of a porch or galilee, have been discovered immediately in front of the great West door, and perhaps the Chapel formed part of this building.

Visit of
William
Worcester,
1478.

William Worcester visited the Abbey from Bristol in 1478. He sailed from Aust Cliff to Chepstow on Friday the 4th September and arrived by dinner time at the Abbey, where he remained the whole of Saturday and Sunday, returning to Chepstow on Monday morning. He found time during this short visit to make many notes which are recorded in his Itinerary, where he gives an elaborate series of measurements of the buildings obtained by stepping them out on the ground. These measurements agree remarkably with measurements of the existing remains taken by more accurate methods. He enumerates the arches, also the windows, and draws attention to the fact that the clerestory windows contained two glazed lights similar in proportion, though not in size, to the windows of Westminster Abbey. He mentions that the great East window contained eight glazed lights with the arms of the founder Roger Bigod, and that the windows at the E. end of the two Presbytery aisles each contained three glazed lights, without any arms, also that the great S. and N. windows each contained six glazed lights of great height.

In an account of the town and port of Bristol William Worcester includes Tintern Monastery on the River Wye in a list of ports with which shipping relations were maintained. The Abbey had property (perhaps warehouses) in Bristol, for under date 1242 mention is incidentally made in the charter rolls of a messuage in Bristol in "Redcliffe Street between the messuage of the monks of Tinterne and the messuage of the nuns of Kington."

And in the Cartulary of Berkeley Castle is a charter undated recording the sale by William

Abbot of Tintern for 12 merks of silver to the Canons of St. Augustine of Bristol of land on the River Frome.

On 28th June, 1462, the Abbot of Tintern received the Royal pardon, and a forfeiture of lands was cancelled, incurred by him in consequence of failure to appear to a writ of Premunire obtained by the Abbot of Tewkesbury touching certain charges against him and the Abbot of Lantarnan in the preceding reign.

In 1468 Sir Wm. Herbert, then recently created Earl of Pembroke, acquired the lordship of Striguil by exchange from the Duke of Norfolk. In the following year Sir William was beheaded. He was buried at Tintern. By his will he left 100 tons of [material not stated] to the Abbey to make the cloister, probably the ornate reconstruction of which traces remain in and around the south-eastern corner. The work was never finished.

Acquisition
of lordship
by Sir Wm.
Herbert,
1468.

A serious riot took place at the Abbey of Kingswood in 1517, owing to the expulsion of the Abbot by the Abbots of Ford and Tintern, acting as "reformators" of the Order. An armed crowd forced their way into the church, and the Abbots had to take refuge in the Chapter House, whence they obtained assistance from the Duke of Buckingham, then residing at his manor of Thornbury.

The last Abbot of Tintern was Richard Wyche. The date of his election is not known, but he was certainly Abbot in 1524 and continued in office until the dissolution. The following reply by him on 5th September, 1534, to an ominous summons to attend on Secretary Cromwell in

Richard
Wyche, last
Abbot.

London was probably amongst the latest of his official acts :—

"I received your letters this Saturday by Rob. Helyatte, servant to John Wynter of Bristowe, in which you desired me to attend you at Court. I will not fail to do so on Friday, begging you to respite me till Monday for the honor of this high feast of our Blessed Lady, Tyntern, Saturday."

The Valor Ecclesiasticus of King Henry VIII. contains a full statement by Abbot Richard Wyche of the possessions of the monastery, dated 1st September, 1535, comprising the manor of Acle (Co. Norfolk), the Granges of Woolaston, Rogerston, Redding, Mora, Trellech, Modesgate (Madgetts), Martergiryn (Merthyr-geryn), Brockweir, Pellenny, Seculer Firmary, and the manor of Alvredeston, the Tan House Farm and demesne lands near the monastery, let to various tenants, producing altogether a revenue of £131 10s. 2½d. Rents and profits of Court at Woolaston, Alvredeston, Haleshall, Magor, Porthcasseg, and Striguil, and rents at Hewelsfield and Bristol are put at £64 17s.; sales of wood at £5; tithes and oblations, including the tithes of Lydd (Co. Kent), Magor, Redwick, Woolaston, and Alvington, at £55 4s. 4d. The grand total of receipts is £256 11s. 6½d., which is of course equivalent to a great deal more in our money.

Dissolution of the Monasteries, 1535. The dissolution of the lesser monasteries in which Tintern was involved followed almost immediately. A pension of £23 was awarded to Abbot Richard Wyche.

SEAL (IMPERFECT) OF TINTERN ABBEY FROM
A CAST IN BRITISH MUSEUM TAKEN FROM
A GRANT DATED 1524.



[Sigillum A]bbatis et Conventus [Bea]te
Marie de T[inter]na.]

On 10th March, 1537, the Abbey and its possessions in Monmouthshire and Gloucestershire were granted to Henry, Earl of Worcester, to whom the lordship of Striguil or Chepstow had descended from Sir Wm. Herbert. The Earl appears from letters dated thence to have resided at Tintern for several months afterwards.

Tintern
granted to
Henry, Earl
of Worces-
ter, 1537.

In 1541 a sum of £8 was paid to the King's plumbers by warrant from the Council for melting lead and bells of Tintern. From this we may infer that only the roofless shell of the Church was delivered up to the Earl of Worcester.

In a MS. account of the Herbert Family by Sir Thomas Herbert [temp. Charles I.], now preserved in the Cardiff Public Library, the Author refers to the death in 1491 of William Herbert, Earl of Huntingdon, "at his Castle of Ragland about seven miles from the fair Abbey of Tintern, where this Earl and his Father the Stout Earl of Pembr: were interred with their Wives the Countesses of Pembroke and Huntingdon, and where a Stately Monument was set up in their memoriall which were preserved untill that fatall year 1538 when the violent deluge overthrew so many beautifull Monasteries and other Sacred Church structures among which this Monastery dedicated to our Blessed Lady the Virgin Mary at the dissolution was suppress, the Monuments defaced and all save the Walls demolished which yet remain and the stone work within which is with singular art curiously wrought in carving visible and little inferiour to any I have seen for Architecture."

Lord Herbert of Cherbury, writing about 1641, also mentions that the tomb of his ancestor Sir

Wm. Herbert, together with the church "lie now wholly defaced and ruined."

The ruins appear to have been neglected until about 1756, when the floor of the church was cleared of rubbish and the ground levelled and turfed by Henry 5th Duke of Beaufort.

Gough in his "Sepulchral Monuments," published in 1786, states that when the ruins of the church were cleared by this Duke of Beaufort the freestone figure of a knight in complete mail was found. From the description given, this figure (which Gough says he saw in 1761) seems to be that the mutilated remains of which are now in the sacristy.

He states that the legs, which were crossed, with a dog or lion at the feet, were broken off and kept in private hands; also that the tomb, of which the figure formed part, had a beautiful moulding round it of flowers and leaves, and on being opened was found to contain the bones of more than two persons.

There is a spice of the marvellous about another story he tells of a "hand grasping a spear 8 ft. long cut in stone over the door of a neighbouring cottage formerly taken from another tomb in this church, in which was found a body intire with leather buskins and buttons on the coat, which all crumbled away on touching."

The property remained in the Beaufort family, the descendants of the original grantee, until 1901, when the Abbey, together with a considerable part of the adjacent property which formerly belonged to the monks, was purchased by the

Acquisition
of the ruins
by the
Crown, 1901.

Crown.

Much has since been done at the cost of the Crown to preserve the ruins.

Although not strictly connected with the **Wireworks.** history of the Abbey, as the industry was not established until after the Dissolution, it may be of interest to note that for some centuries down to quite a recent date when the works were finally closed, the manufacture of iron wire was the principal industry at Tintern.

The works probably originated in or shortly before 7th Eliz: [1565] with a project to use water power for the manufacture of wire, "before which time all English wire was made and drawn by main strength." [Proceedings in suit of the Governor, &c., of the Mineral works, &c., v. Steare and others printed in Opera Mineralia, 1713.]

In 1592 the works were of sufficient importance to form the subject of a Bill (which, however, was not passed) in Parliament entitled "An Acte for the maintenance of the wyre works at Tinterne in the Countie of Monmouthe and of the Iron Wier Drawers, Iron Wyer Cardemakers, and Iron Wyré Woorkers throughout Englande and Wales."

This Bill begins with a recital "Whereas the Governours Assistents and Socyetie of Minerall and Battrye woorks and their assignes have of late yeares invented and broughte into this Realme at their greate costes and charges the laudable science and knowledge of drawinge and forginge into wyer by water woorke and the same have erected framed and putt in use at Tinterne in the Countie of Monmouthe and there from tyme to tyme doe make suche stoare and quantitie of Iron wyer as that from thence they are able not only

to serve this whole Realme of England and Wales with Iron wyer sufficient and at as reasonable prices as forren wyer can be afforded for all necessary uses thereof but also with an overplus to be vented into other countries."

The object of the Bill was to protect the industry from foreign competition, and also because "the great spoyle that hath bene since the erection thereof made of woods in the said Countie of Monmouthe in and about the making of marchante iron," of which more than enough was made in other parts of the kingdom, "will in a few yeares decaye the said wyer woorks to the utter undoinge and ympoverishinge of manie thowsands of your Majestie's good subjects if remedy be not therein speedily provided," it was sought to prohibit the manufacture in Monmouthshire of any iron other than "Osmonde Iron, and that onely for the service of the said late erected wyer woorkes at Tinterne."

The promoters of this monopoly seem to have been quite carried away by zeal for the public welfare, "forasmuch," the Preamble states, "as by the said drawinge and forging of iron into wyre at Tinterne aforesaide are now mayntayned at the least one hundred householdes consistinge of more than five hundred persons, men, woomen and children that otherwise could not tell howe to bee relieved, And that after the said Iron wyer is caryed from thence it passeth through the hands of tenn thousande persons at the leaste within England and Wales whereof a greate parte have wives and children and might sett on woorke tenn thousande persons more in wyer drawinge, wyer cardemakinge, and makinge of knitting needles,

packneedles, fishhooks, claspes, eyes, nayles, chaynes, burde caiges, mousetrappes, buckles, iron rings, and suche like iron wyer wares if it mighte not be lawfull to anie manner of person or persons to bringe into this Realme or Wales from forren parts anie manner of Iron wyer or Iron wyer cards, or other wares, or marchandises made of Iron Wyer And forasmuch as the Iron Wyer cards that are usually broughte over are for the moste parte made in Roane in Normandy a leaguer Towne in Fraunce and that both the Skinnes and Bourds whereof they are made are caryed out of this Realme whereby Your Majestie's Ennemyes be sett on woorke and growe riche whilest Your Majestie's good Subjects become idle and are ready to begge for lacke of occupacon, the science of iron wyer drawinge and iron wyer carde-makinge beinge suche and so easie as aged persons, woomen, children of six yeares olde, and poore souldiors that are maymed in the warres and have loste both their leggs and one of theire armes, and so be fitt for no other woorke maye in a few houres be made able to gett an honest and competente livinge thereby."

On 7th May, 1611, Sir Francis Bacon (afterwards Lord Verulam) applied to Cecil, Lord Salisbury, to be allowed to buy wood from Dean Forest, "which lies very convenient to the Company's Wire Works at Tynterne and Whitebrooke . . . to uphold the said works whereof, by information from our farmers there, we stand in such need, as without your lordship's favour we shall hardly be able to subsist any long time."

This letter is endorsed "Lord Lisle, Sir F. Bacon and others to be preferred in the sale

intended in the Forest of Deane for some reasonable portion of wood for maintenance of their wire-works, paying as any others." [Iron Making in the Forest of Dean, &c. Rev. H. G. Nicholls, M.A., 1866.]

LIST OF ABBOTS.

- A.D. 1170 [circa]. Abbot "E." referred to in letter by Abbots of Quarr and Woburn to Abbot of Cîteaux.
- 1182 [before]. Henry, translated to Waverley.
1188. William, dismissed. Succeeded by Vido [Guy], Abbot of Kingswood.
1234. Ralph, mentioned in letters patent dated 16th June.
1245. Ralph [probably the same as above], made Abbot of Dunkeswell.
1270. John, accused of abetting poachers.
1276. John [probably the same as above], consecrates Hugo de Leukenor, Abbot of Waverley.
1294. Ralph, referred to under date 13th May. [Vide p. 148 of Catalogue of Berkeley, MSS.]
1305. Hugo de Wyke elected. Died 10th Nov., 1320. Succeeded by the Cellarer, viz. :
1320. Walter de Hereford.
1327. Walter [probably the same as above], mentioned in letters patent dated 26th March.
1330. Roger, mentioned in letters patent under date 3rd Dec.
1331. Roger de Camme [no doubt the same Roger], mentioned in Pat. Rolls under date 10th Oct. and 9th Nov.
1333. Walter, mentioned in Pat. Rolls under date 29th Jan.
1340. Gilbert, mentioned in Close Rolls under date 21st July.

1370. John, mentioned in Certificate by Bishop of Llandaff dated Easter as to Magor Church.
1387. John Wysebeeche or Westbych [possibly the same as above], a party to Bond dated 20th July.
1395. The same, mentioned in a notarial instrument dated 30th Aug.
1411. John, mentioned in Patent Rolls under date 1st March.
1413. John Chernyllis, perhaps the same as above, made a Papal Chaplain 6th May.
1461. Thomas, writ of premunire against, dated 28th Nov., obtained by Abbot of Tewkesbury. Pardoned by the King 28th June, 1462, for failure to appear.
1514. Thomas, under date 28th July appoints Charles, Earl of Worcester, and Henry Somerset, Lord Herbert his son to the Seneschalship of the Manor of Acle, Co. Norfolk.
1517. Thomas [probably the same as above], complains under date 25th April of obstruction at Kingswood in the performance of his duties as one of the "reformators" of the Order.
1524. Richard Wyche, mentioned in Inspeximus, dated 26th Feb., continued Abbot until the monastery was dissolved in 1535.
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Signet from impression at Brit. Museum, undated.



SIGI[LLUM] WILL ' DE TYNTERNA.



